

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2080

INFO AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 5558

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, ELAB, YE, SA, US

SUBJECT: YEMENI PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT; ARMS SALES TO YAR

REF: (A) SANA 2176; (B) SANA 2136

1. DEPFONMIN MAS'UD TOLD CHARGE AUGUST 7 THAT PRINCE SULTAN WAS DISTURBED AT PRESS STORIES THAT USG PREPARED TO SELL APPROPRIATE MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO YAR. MAS'UD ASKED FOR AND RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT USG WAS NOT READYING SOME SPEARATE MILITARY AID PACKAGE THAT SAUDIS UNAWARE OF.

2. ON SUBJECT OF YEMENI PRIME MINISTER ABDUL GHANI'S VISIT WHICH ENDED ON AUGUST 6, MAS'UD HAD FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS: (A) SAUDI BUDGETARY SUPPORT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS: SAG WOULD GIVE YAR SOME 950 MILLION RIYALS IN WHAT WERE TERMED "LOANS AND GRANTS" BUT SAG IN POINT OF FACT DID NOT EXPECT AMOUNTS EVER TO BE REPAID. SUM OF 285 MILLION RIYALS TO MAKE UP DEFICITE IN CURRENT YEAR'S BUDGET. MAS'UD SAID SOME IN SAG REGARDED YEMEN AS "A BOTTOM-LESS WELL" BUT SAG ALSO REALIZED YAR HAD TO BE SUPPORTED AGAINST PDRY. SHOULD FORMER FALL UNDER COMMUNIST INFLUENCE, THE BURDEN OF SELF-DEFENSE WOULD BE EVEN GREATER. HE STRESSED SAG HAD EXACTED NO SPECIFIC QUID PRO QUOS FROM YEMENIS, BUT HOPED THEY WOULD BE ENCOURAGED FURTHER TO

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ATTENUATE THEIR LINKS TO SOVIET BLOC. (B) YEMENI LABORERS:

OFFICIALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR WOULD BE NAMED IN EACH
LOCATION OF SAUDI ARABIA TO HANDLE PASSPORT AND SIMILAR MATTERS FOR
LOCAL YEMENIS AND TO COMMUNICATE ON THEIR BEHALF WITH FONMINISTRY AND
OTHER MINISTRIES IN RIYADH. MAS-QUE SAID TTTAL TS YEMENI LAZTES#

IN SAUDI ARABIA
WAS ONE MILLION; HE OBVIOUSLY WISHED IT WERE LESS,
BUT ADMITTED SAUDI ARABIA COULD NOT DO WITHOUT THEM. (C) AMBASSADOR
SUDAIRY: IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE EMIR OF JIZAN (PRINCE SUDAIRY)
SHOULD AT THE SAME TIME BE THE SAUDI AMBASSADOR TO SANA. AN EMIR BY
HIS
VERY NATURE DID NOT HAVE THE TECHNICAL SKILLS NOR THE TEMPERAMENT
THAT
WAS DESIRED IN AN AMBASSADOR. COMMENT: CHARGE REFRAINED FROM
ASKING WHETHER SUDAIRY WOULD GET THE BOOT. SINCE SUNDAIRY'S NEPHEW
PRINCE SULTAN HAS BEEN NAMED TO HEAD THE SAUDI-YEMEN FOLLOW-UP
COMMISSION, IT'S PROBABLY PREMATURE TO SPECULATE.
HORAN

NOTE BY OC/T: #TEXT AS RECEIVED

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